

Prefixed Safety Messages (PUB. 102) and Prowords

If you hear these words, pay particular attention to the message.

MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY (Distress)

Indicates that a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle is threatened by grave and imminent danger and request immediate assistance.

Mayday

The distress call for voice radio, for vessels and people in serious trouble at sea. The term was made official by an international telecommunications conference in 1948, and is an anglicizing of the French "m'aidez," (help me).

PAN PAN PAN (Urgency)

Indicates that the calling station has a very urgent message to transmit concerning the safety of a ship, aircraft, or other vessel, or the safety of a person.

SECURITE SECURITE SECURITE (Safety)

Indicates that the station is about to transmit a message concerning the safety of navigation or giving important meteorological warnings.

Prowords

OVER – This is the end of my transmission to you, and a response is necessary.
Go ahead, transmit.

OUT - This is the end of my transmission to you, and no answer is required or expected.

ROGER – I have received your last transmission satisfactorily.

WILCO – I have received your signal, understand it, and will comply. To be used only by the addressee. Since the meaning of ROGER is included in that of WILCO, the two prowords are never used together.

WAIT – I must pause for a few seconds.

BREAK – I hereby indicate the separation of the text from other portions of the message.